



Lewis Levine

Sgt. Richard Caudill greets his wife, Rebecca Caudill, with a hug upon his arrival at Stewart's National Guard Training Area Saturday.

711th Signal Soldiers return

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

3rd Inf. Div.

The overcast sky did little to dampen the spirits of families greeting Soldiers returning to Fort Stewart from a long deployment Saturday.

As the wives, husbands and friends of the deployed Soldiers chatted away in the National Guard training area, it was apparent that the reunion was what they've waited for since the 711th Signal Battalion, an Alabama National Guard unit based in Mobile, Ala., left in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 in February 2003.

"I'm pretty excited," said Jeannie Lay, military spouse. "I'm really glad his

deployment is over and I can spend time with him again."

Part of the first wave of returning Soldiers for the unit brought 36 Soldiers to Stewart to debrief and begin the four-day process to integrate themselves back into their civilian lives.

"We've been gone a long time," said Staff Sgt. Larry Paul. "I've missed my family and got a lot of catching up to do with them and my son; he's grown on me."

Many of the Soldiers, single or married, had family there to greet them; those who didn't were not denied the joyous hearts of the gathered crowd, who were quick to give anyone a hug and say welcome back.

"Many people couldn't make it today,

but that isn't stopping those of us here from telling all those single guys and married Soldiers, whose friends and spouses couldn't make it that we're glad they've come home," said Rhonda Freeman, military spouse.

Indeed as the reunions and welcomes traveled the group, all Soldiers were glad to once again tread feet in America and to be welcomed back home by their friends and family.

"It's great to be back," said Sgt. 1st Class David Freeman. "There is so much I missed, but I'm just glad to be home and back with my family."

"Your spouse is your world, your best friend, and now the family's together again. It's wonderful," Lay said.

"The Soldiers returning from Iraq are only in for a short stay on Stewart," said Master Sgt. Larry D. Parker, 279th Signal Battalion. "After final briefings, which last about four days, they can go home."

Before the Soldiers could depart from the area, Stewart Garrison Commander Col. John Kidd wanted to leave them all with some words of appreciation over their hard work.

"You've been gone a long time on a tough deployment," he said. "Thanks for what you've done."

He added, "The people of this country and everyone recognizes the sacrifices you've gone through and each of you is a hero in his or her own right and deserve a grateful thanks from this nation for that."

Memorial held for 3rd Inf. Div. Soldier

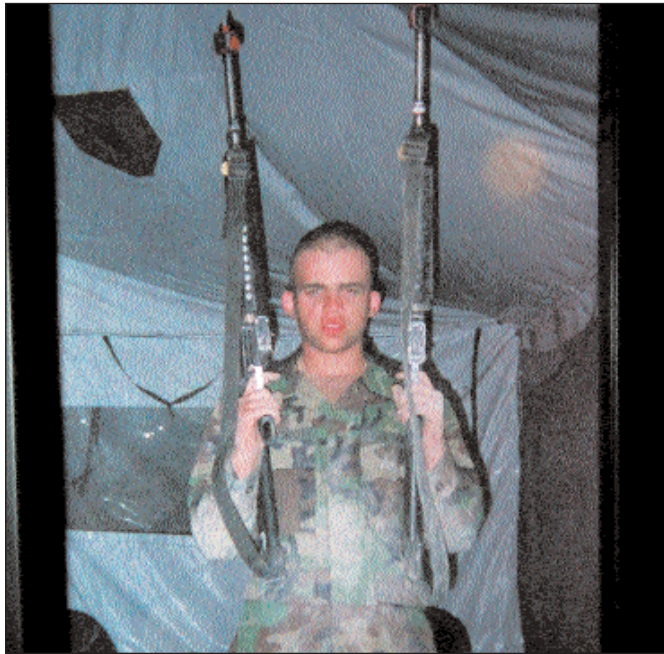
Pfc. Dan Balda

4th Bde.

A memorial service was held at Heritage Chapel on Fort Stewart Jan. 5, for a Soldier who passed away.

Pfc. Alphonse P. Fitch Jr., G Company, 703rd Forward Support Battalion, 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division petroleum specialist, was killed in a car accident Dec. 16.

"We are all faced with choices," said Capt. Stephen Collins, Forward Support Company Commander. "He chose to join the Army, which speaks volumes for his character and the way he was raised, especially



Courtesy photo

Pfc. Alphonse P. Fitch Jr., a G Company, 703rd Forward Support Battalion, 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division petroleum specialist, poses during a field exercise.

Raider Brigade lands in Kuwait

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

1st Bde.

CAMP NEW YORK, Kuwait — An advance party of 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers landed in Kuwait and traveled to temporary quarters at Camp New York Saturday in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.

The Soldiers traveled by a chartered flight to Kuwait. After a two-hour bus ride, they unloaded their gear and settled into tents at Camp New York.

The camp has gone

through a series of upgrades since the 3rd Infantry Division deployed here in 2003.

"This place has changed quite a bit since the last time I was here," said Spc. JeanCarlo Lopez, a planning specialist with Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 1st Bde. "Before, there was no lighting, no gym, no internet café, no Burger King or gift shop."

The facilities that were available before were smaller and not able to accommodate

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Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Inf. Div. commander, shakes the hands of 1st Brigade Soldiers as they depart for Kuwait.

Weather Forecast

FRI

High 68° Low 43°

SAT

High 59° Low 39°

SUN

High 62° Low 43°

News



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Largest port activity since Desert Storm

Catherine Caruso

Hunter PAO

As thousands of 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers fly out of Hunter Army Airfield for the division's return to Iraq this month, their gear is being rushed across two oceans to meet them.

"Before it's over, we'll have moved 2 million square feet of cargo," said U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Comm. Larry Greene, Chief of Port Operations in Savannah.

The cargo came by rail, from Forts Drum, Dix and Stewart. Some aircraft were flown in. Some vehicles were driven to the port.

"We do trains, we do planes, we do ships. Anything that has to do with moving anything, we do it," said Tom McBride, DOL Port Support Chief.

It's a huge job, the biggest the DOL and port personnel have tackled since Operation Desert Storm.

Military uploads are a common mission, with gear heading in or out of the port in Savannah every couple of months, Greene said. But rarely does so much equipment pass through these few acres of oceanfront real estate so quickly.

For the past decade, most military deployments have involved brigade or smaller-sized elements, he said.

And when the 3rd Inf. Div. headed overseas for the buildup to Operation Iraqi Freedom, units deployed over the course of several months.

But in the past two months, approximately two division's worth equipment has been shipped through Ocean Terminal en route to Iraq.

The USNS Watkins is a large, medium speed, roll-on, roll-off ship capable of carrying up to 1800 vehicles in its 3,800 square foot cargo hold.

It was the seventh of nine vessels that are ferrying vehicles for the 3rd Inf. Div. and supporting units to Kuwait.

As a long line of desert tan vehicles rumbled into the cavernous hold of a floating parking garage larger than some office towers, McBride explained it's not as easy as rolling trucks up a ramp and waving goodbye from the pier.

"This is large. You're moving the whole 3rd Infantry Division, plus equipment," McBride said. "I've done this a few times, ever since we started in 1991, and this is a lot smoother."

The upload was the culmination of seven months of effort by DOL, the port authority, the Coast Guard, and the Navy.

Long before the first convoys headed out from Fort Stewart on Highway 144, vehicles had to be painted. Heavy plates of steel armor upgrades were fabricated, delivered, and bolted on.

"The equipment is better prepared, the documentation is better prepared. As you go along, and you go, and you do, you get better," McBride said.

And since what rolls on must roll off, for past missions vehicles were inspected prior to loading at the port for fluids leaks, flat tires, and anything else that might



Catherine Caruso

3rd Infantry Soldiers drive their vehicles onto the USNS Watkins at the port in Savannah, for transporting to Iraq.

hinder their unloading upon arrival at their destination.

But since the closest maintenance facilities for many of the vehicles are located 50 miles away, the port commander sent cargo inspectors to examine the vehicles before they left home station, allowing units to correct deficiencies before the vehicles ever reached the port.

The US Coast Guard also has its share of lessons learned from Desert Storm, said Greene.

His people have spent a lot of sleepless nights doing shift work to support the Marine Division's movement to Iraq, he said.

The Coast Guard has crews from the port, Station Tybee, and SAS Savannah on 24-7 staffing, providing security for the ships as they enter and leave the port. There are reservists mobilized from Jacksonville, Fla. and Charleston, S.C., and volunteers from the Coast Guard Auxillary. They enforce a 500 yard protective zone around the ship while it's in port, and conduct aerial, harbor, and facility security sweeps. The Chatham Marine patrol dive team also scouts for underwater threats.

In all, the port has tripled its normal manpower to provide security for about two division's worth of gear and crews needed to get that gear loaded up and on its way to meet the Soldiers as their boots hit the ground in Kuwait.

"We do this, not to this scale, but we do this type of mission, military offload, about once every three months. This is the largest we've done since Desert Storm. When we're done, it's going to be over 10,000 pieces of equipment moved,"

Greene said.

It's been a long haul. They've been working 12 to 14 hour days, seven days a week, with 24 hour staffing in most sections. For the past five weeks, they've moved nonstop to load equipment onto ships that moved in and out of the harbor with as little as 15 minutes between them.

But it's nothing compared to what they experienced a little over ten years ago. The last time they did a mission this size, a mid-January cold snap took its toll on crews who toiled late into the night in ocean mist.

The port didn't have enough space heaters and raincoats at first to keep them all warm and dry.

Some reservists were called to active duty without current weapons or equipment certifications, and commanders scrambled to get them shipshape so they could be put to work securing the port.

"We realized the last time, we cannot get into that position again," Greene said.

The 3rd ID's mass deployment is a chance to test those lessons learned.

So far, it's been smooth sailing, he said.

The USNS Watkins itself is an example of the military's efforts to improve its ability to rapidly mobilize and deploy forces anywhere in the world.

According to Paul Charest, the Watkins' chief engineer, when Desert Storm hit, much of the Navy's contingency fleet were steam powered ships, and there were hardly enough old hands left on the rolls with that were certified to crew them.

"The Navy realized they needed a better way when it came time to break this

stuff out of mothballs," he said.

Moving a light infantry division that travels on what it can pack in duffle bags and rucksacks is almost easy compared to the demands of moving a heavy division equipped with aircraft, tanks, and howitzers.

The USNS Watkins, commissioned in 2001, is the newest design of a series of ships launched since the early 1990's that were designed to preposition military equipment around the world.

It's a capability that has been in heavy demand lately.

Capt. Kurt Kleinschmidt has commanded the vessel since it was commissioned, arriving in Diego Garcia to oversee a hold full of rapidly-deployable military cargo just months before Sept. 11th.

"Our first trip up to the Gulf was that June, and we've been shuttling back and forth ever since," Kleinschmidt said. "This is our 15th mission."

But while you could say all those lessons learned have paid off, with ships and cargo moving in and out of port with unprecedented efficiency (they've averaged round-the-clock operations with just a 15 minute widow between arriving and departing ships for the past six week), it's made for some long days.

While the 3rd ID's mission is getting underway, the port has been sustaining an increased operational tempo for several months.

Greene said they'll all sleep much easier, and get more sleep, when the last ship pulls out of port.

"We're on the downswing now. Our job is almost over. After that, it's just 'so long, have a safe trip,'" McBride said.

'Supercargoes' maintain equipment while transporting

Catherine Caruso

Hunter PAO

They call them "supercargoes." Not passengers, not quite crew. But when the USNS Watkins left port in Savannah to ferry the 3rd Infantry Division's gear to Kuwait this month, they brought a few Soldiers along for the ride.

There are four 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers aboard, all volunteers, to keep the fleet of Army vehicles aboard shipshape during the three weeks it will take for the Watkins to pull into port in the Middle East.

"We'll be busy. You know, watching movies, playing cards," Spec. Robert Ricci, a scout for 6/8 Cavalry, said.

And, trying to stay in shape. "They have a cook who is going to be the death of me," said Spc. Jeremy Bland, 2/7 Infantry mortarman.

The supercargoes aren't exactly on a pleasure cruise. They're aboard to work on the equipment, fix flat tires, check for fluids leaks, and make sure it all stays safely tied down for the duration of the trip.

They'll also do all the primary maintenance checks and services required to ensure each and every one of the nearly 1800 vehicles aboard are ready to roll when they pull into port upon reaching southwest Asia.

"Everything that rolls on needs to roll off, and these guys are going to make sure that hap-

pens," said USNS Watkins Capt. Kurt Kleinschmidt.

The Soldiers said they volunteered for this mission for many reasons.

"I just thought it would be kind of nice. I've never been on one before. I wanted " Sgt. Rod Lobaugh, a mechanic for 6/8 Cav., said.

Lobaugh is a volunteer twice over. He deployed to Iraq two years ago, and reenlisted for the chance to go back.

"I have a lot of feeling for this mission," he said. "And me being single, I volunteered to go with the equipment. I'm excited to get over there. And most of the sergeants in my unit are married. They would have been screwed out of spending the last few weeks with their families."

Unlike all of the other supercargoes on board, Spc. Nathan Potts, a 6/8 Cav. medic, said goodbye to a wife, Ginger, and two children, Brocke and Brooke before pulling out of port with the crew of the Watkins.

He's excited about heading to Iraq.

Potts was a physical science teacher at Paul L. Dunbar High School in Fort Worth, Texas, before he joined the military, 18 months ago. He said it was Sept. 11, 2001, that inspired him to sign on the dotted line, and the U.S. invasion of Iraq that cemented his decision to sign his contract.

"I believe in the cause and what the military is doing and I



Catherine Caruso

Spc. Jeremy Bland, 2/7 Inf. Bn. mortarman, goes through the dining facility line aboard USNS Watkins after checking cargo and equipment.

wanted to be a part of it," he said.

But while they're there to work, they apparently won't lack for some comforts in their temporary home, Kleinschmidt said.

"The captain told us what we can and can't do. No wild parties. But it's nice in here. And the food is very good," Ricci said.

After checking out the gym,

the on-board dining facility, and his quarters in one of the ship's staterooms, Bland said his comfort was the least of his worries.

"I'm used to small spaces. I'm in the barracks anyway, so, this is actually an upgrade," Bland said. "We've got a lounge that's stocked with movies, a Playstation II, books. But if anyone asks, it's a hardship tour. For

slave wages. And they're working us to death."

And while for most of these ground pounders, this will be their first long voyage on an oceangoing vessel they weren't too worried the other source of potential discomfort, either.

"Oh, don't worry about us. We brought plenty of Dramamine," Bland said.

Iraqi soldiers awarded ARCOM for heroism

Staff Sgt. Fred Minnick

Army News Service

MOSUL, Iraq — Two Iraqi National Guard soldiers were awarded the Army Commendation Medal Jan. 3 for their heroic acts after a suicide bomber attacked the Forward Operating Base Marez dining facility in southwest Mosul Dec. 21.

The two Iraqis saved the life of an American Soldier suffering severe wounds and carried several other wounded to safety.

“The attack of December 21 was not only intended to take lives, it was intended to divide two nations,” said Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, who awarded the ARCOMs. “The actions taken by these ING soldiers indicate clearly that American Soldiers and the Iraqi soldiers are one. We are very grateful for your brave actions that day.” The Iraqis were eating lunch with their ING and U.S. comrades when the explosion occurred. Both of the Iraqi soldiers were blown from their seats by the blast, which they described as, “very powerful, lots of noise and heat.” They were both dazed. One of them could only hear a loud ringing sound in his ears. The other couldn’t believe his eyes — everywhere he looked people were gasping for air or bleeding profusely.

Before the two Iraqis lay a helpless American Soldier, who fell to the ground after staggering across the smoke-filled mess hall. They couldn’t understand his words, they saw the wound above his knee and realized the American’s life was in danger.

“Recognizing the Soldier’s injury as potentially life-threatening, the two ING soldiers employed first aid techniques learned during recent training with U.S. Special Forces and used their belts to apply a tourniquet to the U.S. Soldier’s leg to stop the bleeding, and then moved the Soldier out of the danger area,” said Maj. Jim Harrell, a Multi-National Forces spokesman in Mosul.

They moved the Soldier to a MEDEVAC vehicle using a two-man litter carry. After they hoisted the Soldier in the truck, the two Iraqis — one an officer, the other an NCO — ran back to the facility and began treating the other wounded, without regard for their own safety.

Herrell said the ING soldiers, with their American partners, rendered first aid to two very seriously wounded comrades from their unit and at least five other U.S. and ING Soldiers, applying field dressings and moving the wounded by litter and buddy-carry to evacuation vehicles.

Once the smoke cleared and the severely wounded had been evacuated, medical personnel checked the two ING soldiers to ensure they had suffered no severe injuries. The Iraqis waved off medical attention, simply wanting to see the American they helped “to make sure he’s OK,” said the officer.

Both Iraqis said they had great admiration for their U.S. counterparts. As for their own actions, the officer said, “This was our duty. We are a team, and we take care of each other.”



Jessika Ross

Brig. Gen. Carter Ham awards two Iraqi National Guard Soldiers the U.S. Army Commendation Medal for their acts of heroism on Dec. 21, when a suicide bomber attacked the FOB Marez dining facility.

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Bilingual rats: the new terrorist threat

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
3rd Inf. Div.

So as I was surfing the web looking for some big words to cleverly work into conversations, I came upon a report that shocked and disturbed me almost as much as the discovery that it was illegal to play wombat table tennis at my neighborhood YMCA.

The report, which I found on www.yahoo.com news, said that certain rats have been deemed capable of discerning the difference between two spoken languages, Dutch and Japanese, using only rhythm.

Since I didn't read to the end of the article, I'm not really sure how the rats learned rhythm, seeing as how there are a number of human beings I know who haven't quite mastered it, but the fact is, they did it, and now we have the problem of bilingual rats on our hands.

To most Americans, this should raise some concern, due to the fact that more than one of us seem to have trouble figuring out our own language, written or spoken, much less the difference between two separate tongues not spoken by anyone on MTV's The Real World, even that charmingly ethnic girl with the pink hair.

Now, I'm not going to launch into another tirade about the remarkable ability — which many of us have — to

Commentary

grow up in America, read books in English, hear correct grammar and vocabulary on television and all around us our w h o l e lives, and still have the linguistic finesse of a chimp on crack.

But it really does worry me that rats, which are not (last time I checked, at least) educated in any of our schools, can tell the difference between the languages of two countries that most American students can barely identify.

By the way, here I feel it's necessary to mention a key question, one which I'm sure is relentlessly gnawing at all of our brains: who in the crap were the scientists who seemingly had enough time on their hands to not only study rats, but to teach them different languages?

Did they not have enough on their plates, or was finding a cure for cancer, AIDS and the common cold just not important enough for them to waste their time on?

With this in mind, I refrain my ear-

lier concern: bilingual rats.

I mean, once we have rodents roaming the earth who can tell what language we're speaking, the sky is the limit. Soon we'll be using tax dollars to send the godawful beasts to Japan or the Netherlands (apparently the country where they speak Dutch) in order to further investigate this amazing revelation, and the insanity will, no doubt, not end there.

What if the terrorists enlist some of these creatures to assist them in their evildoing? Seriously, if a rat can tell the difference between a Japanese person and a Dutch person, identifying the pro- and anti-terrorist Americans would be a piece of cake, don't you think?

So now here we've given the bad guys a perfect opportunity to be able to cut into the people of our nation and divide us up like so many slices of pizza.

Good job, scientists. Here's a clue — next time, why don't you try coming up with a product that can wipe out those vile beings (rats or terrorists, whichever) once and for all, so I don't have to sound like a raving lunatic in an otherwise respectable newspaper?

Then maybe all of us Americans can just go back to being proud of ourselves for knowing our own language, and the world will be a cleaner place.



Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

"Is it important to keep in touch with family during deployment? Why or why not?"

"Yes, because the importance of family reminds us of why we serve our nation and do the missions that we do."

Maj. Thomas Whitaker
3rd In. Div. G-5



"Yes, so you can keep close ties to the ones you love."

Pfc. Patrick Kirwan
B Co., 3/7 Inf. Regt.



"Yes, because it helps keep the speculations and rumors to a minimum."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Fred Phillips III
1st Det., 3rd Sig.



"Yes, it keeps their minds in a comfortable state."

Sgt. Bret Bellah
B Co., 3/7 Inf. Regt.



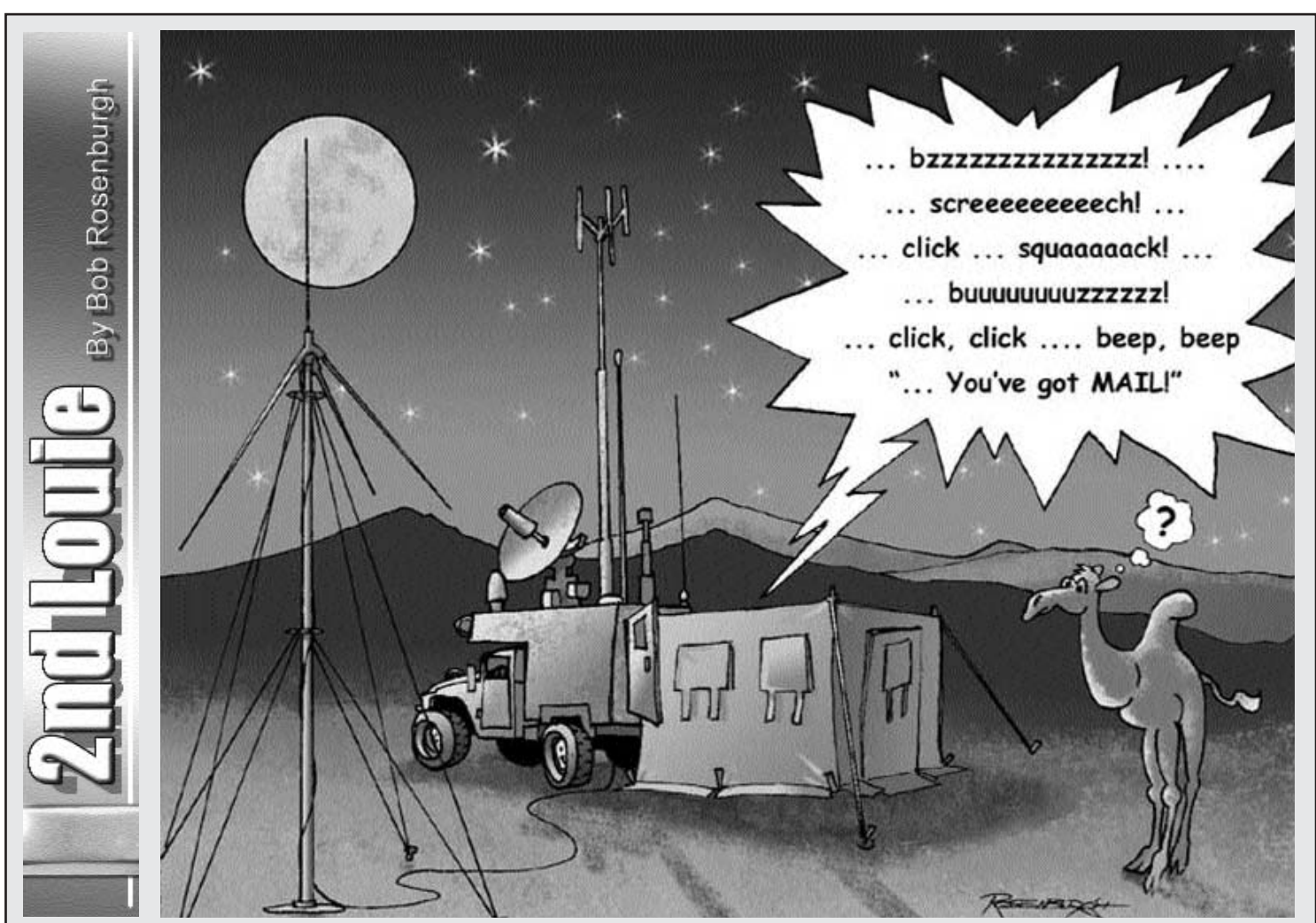
"Oh my God, yes, so they don't have a heart attack from worrying about what might be happening to you."

Sgt. Susan Simmers
1st Det., 3rd Sig.



"Yes, because you don't want your kids thinking you don't love them any-more."

Staff Sgt. Shelly D. Childress
HHC, 4th Bde.



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‘Walk to Winn’ program focuses on individuals

Laurie Kemp
Winn Public Affairs Officer

If you're looking for an exercise program that's gradual, supportive and focused on your individual goals, you may have found what you're looking for in the new Walk to Winn program.

"The program is designed to be very positive and supportive. We are not asking people to give up anything," said Capt. Jolene Lea, community health nurse and program manager, "but to increase activity and healthy eating choices slowly over a 12-week period."

Walk to Winn, modeled after the Healthy Georgia Walk Plus Program, kicks off this month.

"Only 15 participants are accepted per (monthly) session so participants are really able to work together as a small support group," Lea said.

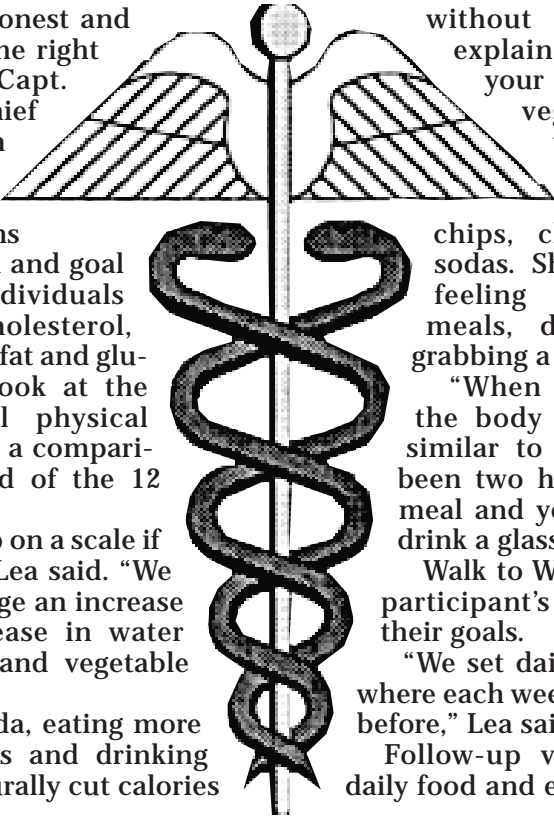
"A day will come when you really want a cheeseburger and fries over something healthier or you just really don't feel like being active. A support system, a buddy,

will help keep you honest and motivated to make the right choices," said Capt. Kimberly Brenda, chief dietician at Winn Army Community Hospital.

The program begins with a wellness exam and goal setting session. Individuals will have their cholesterol, blood pressure, body fat and glucose measured to look at the participant's overall physical health and for use as a comparison basis at the end of the 12 weeks.

"No one has to step on a scale if they don't want to," Lea said. "We are trying to encourage an increase in activity, an increase in water intake and in fruit and vegetable consumption."

According to Brenda, eating more fruits and vegetables and drinking more water will "naturally cut calories



without counting." She explains "if you increase your water and fruit and vegetable intake, you will have less room to eat unhealthy substitutions," like chips, chocolate bars and sodas. She also offers when feeling hungry between meals, drink water before grabbing a snack.

"When you're dehydrated, the body sends out a signal similar to hunger. If it's only been two hours since your last meal and you're feeling hungry, drink a glass of water."

Walk to Winn's focus is on the participant's overall health and their goals.

"We set daily and weekly goals, where each week builds on the week before," Lea said.

Follow-up visits, along with a daily food and exercise journal, help

the Walk to Winn staff tailor the program to each participant. Follow-up visits are held during the 3rd, 6th, 9th and 12th week of the program.

Once the goals are set, it is time to learn the fundamentals.

Pedometers will be issued for use during the program, but participants are encouraged to buy their own pedometer to maintain their long-term goals. Participants will get a class on how to use the pedometer (issued or own,) finding the appropriate footwear and stretching. The class will conclude with the first walk of the program.

Finding a healthier lifestyle in a busy schedule doesn't have to be a hassle. It doesn't mean going to the gym 5 days a week or following some fad diet. All it takes is self-motivation, a desire to be healthier and a plan. Let the clinical staff at Walk to Winn help you find a plan you can live with.

Walk to Winn is open to all military beneficiaries. Call the Department of Preventive Medicine at 370-5071 for available dates and more information.

FITCH

from page 1A

knowing that he would probably be asked to go to far off lands."

Fitch was born to Alphonse and Monique Fitch. He was raised in Lake Charles, La., and completed his basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. He then completed his advanced individual training at Fort Lee, Va. He also worked in direct support of 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

His awards and decorations include the National Defense Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

Pvt. Atila Kun, his roommate and friend recalled when he first met Fitch.

"We didn't get along so well at first, so we got put on ammo detail because we fought so much," he said. "Once we moved in together we started getting along. Now I miss all the little things he did, even the annoying things."

Chap. (Capt) Jerry Hall, the 703rd chaplain, challenged the people in attendance to allow Fitch's life to positively impact their life in some way.

Hall echoed many of same thoughts of those who served with Fitch.

"He always completed every mission he faced," Hall said. "I am a better Soldier for serving with him."



Pfc. Dan Balda

The empty boots, M-16 rifle and identification tags of Pfc. Alphonse P. Fitch Jr., stand as a memorial to the fallen Soldier. Fitch was a petroleum specialist with G Company, 703rd Forward Support Battalion, 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

RAIDER

from page 1A

as many Soldiers, Lopez said.

Soldiers from Fort Stewart were not alone at Camp New York, as National Guard Soldiers accompanied Soldiers from the 3rd Inf. Div. These Soldiers were from states such as Utah, Idaho, Washington and New York. A variety of patches were worn on the left arms of Soldiers throughout the camp.

"You have to trust everybody 100 percent," said Spc. Frankie Souther, an HHC, 1st Bde. radio telephone operator. "You have to be doubt free, and not give a second thought that your buddy is going to watch your back and you are going to watch his."

For a majority of the Soldiers, this is their first deployment to the Middle East. They had mixed emotions about leaving their homes and loved ones behind, although they knew they were here to accomplish a mission. Sacrificing the comforts of familiarity had already begun to take a toll on some of the Soldiers.

"I'm homesick, and I don't like being away from my family and my girlfriend," said Pfc. Ryan Chacanaca, an HHC, 1st Bde. driver. "I believe in what we are doing over here, but I just wish the deployment times were shorter."

The Soldiers will remain at Camp New York to attend briefings, take classes and go to the range to hone their skills on their individual assigned weapons before crossing the border.

Soldiers took advantage of the facilities available and said they were comfortable with staying here in the camp.

"The general area is established nicely," said Spc. Keith Brescher, HHC, 1st Bde. driver. "People had their doubts, (but for Camp New York), it's nice. I mean, we have a Burger King and a PX. It makes me feel like I'm at a home away from home."

Behind every good Soldier, there is a good family member

Jennifer Wingfield

Managing Editor

Raised on a pacific island and attending rival high schools, they never knew each other. Their paths finally cross in Korea, and marriage follows Valentine's Day 2004 in Georgia.

Staff Sgt. Motuofe and Spc. Lina Satele both admit the upside perks to being dual military. The support between the two of them goes both ways. They find that they know what needs to get done for each other's Army routine.

"We don't have many surprises," Motuofe said. "We both know how the Army is. Some civilian couples may wonder what the other spouse does at work, but that is not the issue for us."

"We don't question when we have to work holidays," Lina said. "Last year we missed my brother-in-law's wedding because of duty, but both of us understand how it is."

Motuofe and Lina both agree the money at this point is better than when they were individually single. "This is better than me staying home. At least we have two incomes," Lina said.

Another good point is the convenience of working in the same vicinity, Lina said. Motuofe is an armor crewman with 4th Battalion, 64th Armor; Lina, a broadcast journalist with Marne Television.

For right now the only obstacle they have to work on is their different field schedules. Oftentimes when Motuofe goes, Lina stays behind, and vice versa. Their separations during those times can stretch into months.

The Satele courtship is one that could be patterned into a tearjerker by any romance novelist and their observable dedication to each other continues as they both serve their country in what is a common occurrence with Soldiers in dual status.

Motuofe readily admits that he had no intention of getting married, but when he met Lina, "I was done," he said.

Lina, out of her battle dress uniform attire but at work on location in civilian clothes at an Asian Pacific Heritage Month Program in Korea, asked one of the spectators for a light for her cigarette. Motuofe had the flame.

"She was so beautiful. I didn't think she was Samoan at first," said Motuofe.

Months later when his marriage proposal came, Lina admits that she was surprised and not expecting it. "We were out dancing at a club. He presented me with a stuffed animal that had the engagement ring on it and got down on one knee and asked me to marry him."

He was crying and I started crying, and we kissed and danced some more. We didn't care who else was in the club. It was as though we were the only ones there," Lina said.

They both came into the military right out of high



Jennifer Wingfield

Staff Sgt. Motuofe Satele and wife, Spc. Lina Satele spend quality time with each other before he deploys.

school from American Samoa. They find themselves often missing family, food, and sometimes the weather.

"Everything there is so slow and laid back," Lina said. "A year there feels like two years." Though they try to keep in touch with family back home in American Samoa, the phone calls can be quite expensive. "A 100 minute calling card only gives us 26 minutes of talking time," Lina said.

One of their favorite pastimes is reading. Motuofe especially enjoys reading graphic novels. He explains them as being "like expanded comic books in which the characters can range from horror to fantasy."

Staff Sgt. Motuofe Satele is scheduled for the Iraq deploy-

ment with the 3rd Inf. Div. this month, so their plans for the future have shifted. "We never know what's going to happen in Iraq," Lina said. "We have discussed the possibility of one of us not making it back from the war."

"But my objective is to just get back, and I am sticking to that for now," Motuofe said. "I am comfortable where I am and I would like to stay. Besides that, when I do return, we can then settle down and start a family."

Editor's Note: *This is the second in a series that brings in to view the many family members who support Soldiers of the 3rd Inf. Div., Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.*

Safety challenges workforce at Iraqi Army base

Nicole Dalrymple

Army News Service

BAGHDAD — Wide variances in building processes, and almost non-existent safety rules and regulations have made ongoing reconstruction efforts in Iraq dynamic and complex.

The multinational construction team building the new \$100 million K1 New Iraqi Army Military Base outside of Kirkuk has encountered and addressed many challenges since construction started in April.

With Phase One of the construction — consisting of 120 buildings, roads and utilities — scheduled for completion this month, it's an environment that has required proactive efforts by the prime contractor, and patience, innovation and initiative from all involved, said officials.

ECCI, the project's prime contractor, has awarded much of the K1 construction work to four local companies. They have distributed work to more than 50 Iraqi subcontractors, employing as many as 2,600 workers a day, surpassing two million labor hours, said officials.

"This project is providing more jobs for people and we are all gaining experience," said Ali Ali Raoof, a local Iraqi civil engineer assisting with quality assurance at K1.

Construction builds local area economy

Originally, ECCI had planned on using pre-manufactured or modular buildings for K1, but the decision was made early on to use block and mortar construction. This decision kept the majority of labor in the local area and helped grow the economy, said Keith Pushaw, program manager with ECCI.

The base, designed to support a brigade of 3,000 Soldiers, will include officer and enlisted barracks, dining facilities, headquarters buildings, maintenance facilities, a laundry, fire station, med-

ical clinic, mosque, motor pool and firing ranges.

Because of all the required permits and building standards, a construction project of this size could have taken two or more years to build in the States, Pushaw said. Phase One construction is taking less than one year, but it has been a challenging nine months, Pushaw said.

"Many of our subcontractors have limited resources and are unable to provide the workforce with the tools we so commonly take for granted in America," Pushaw said. "They also have little exposure to the safety culture and workers often lack some of the basic essentials such as closed-top shoes."

Innovative ways improves quality control

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction reps, providing quality assurance oversight on the project, have seen workers using rebar as C clamps and hammer drills, and when mortar mixers were not available, mortar was mixed one bucket at a time using old Russian steel pots as mortar boxes.

The Iraqis have spent years holding their country together with whatever resources were available. If there's no hammer, they will make one. "The last regime tried to get everything for themselves," Raoof said.

"The Iraqis are very innovative with the tools they use," said John Bartel, former area engineer for the Corps' Mosul Area Office. "Their engineers have really impressed me. They are a very capable people."

"We have always done the best with what we had," Raoof added, "but now we are being shown new ways." Raoof and 40 other Iraqi engineers were brought in by the Ministry of Housing to help provide quality control at the project.

"The Iraqi engineers play a significant role in the construction process," said Wayne Elliott, the Corps' resident engineer there.



Photos by Nicole Dalrymple

At the K1 New Iraqi Army Military Base block and mortar construction was selected to keep labor in the local area and help grow the economy.

"They have an assigned number of buildings where they are responsible for quality control and they assist us with the language barrier, communicating our intentions and requirements to the workers."

Safety and quality training stressed

During construction, Corps and ECCI personnel have been able to share knowledge with the local contractors as well as introduce new technologies and processes, officials said.

ECCI has also performed classroom training and site instructions for the local subcontractors and engineers.

"We have worked at establishing standards," Pushaw said. "Safety has been a big issue on the work site too. We stress safety and quality, but it has been very challenging."

An onsite medical clinic has been established to provide first aid treatment for workers and contract personnel, and hard hats, safety glasses and knee-high boots have been issued to workers. ECCI has also provided portable water coolers and tanks to help with the welfare and safety of the workforce.

"This has been a learning



After several workers got chemical burns on their shins doing concrete work, a safety standard was set that workers would tuck their pants into their boots and tape around the top.

process," Raoof said. "Maybe we have some problems and mistakes, but these are standards we are not use to. We are working through the challenges."

"We are building up our skills for the next phase," he said referring to Phase Two, which will include 20 additional buildings.

"We will have to be tougher on the workers and local contractors and make sure we are learning continuously."

Initial clearing and grubbing has begun for Phase Two with construction starting this month. It is scheduled for completion in May.

3D IN BRIEF

Stewart

Ski Beech Mountain
Busses depart from Stewart Leisure Activities Center, Bldg. 443 on Jan. 22 at midnight and return Jan. 23 at 10 p.m. Costs include motel, ski lift and equipment rental. Adults \$180, children \$140 and children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 767-8609.

Universal Studios
Two day trip including transportation, two-day attraction ticket and lodging is scheduled for Feb. 20. Adult fare is \$150, children \$90 and anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Busses will depart at midnight from Bldg. 443. For more information, call 767-8609.

Bowling and Golf
Free bowling and shoe rental at Marne and Hunter Lanes, 1 to 5 p.m. for Soldiers and family members. No golf fees at Taylors Creek and Hunter Courses from 1 to 5 p.m. Golf cart rental, \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 per person for 18 holes.

Indebtedness Claim
Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Spc. George D. Harrison, 293rd MP Co., Fort Stewart, Ga, should

contact 1st Lieutenant Braden P. Stai, at 767-2186.

Red Cross CPR Instructors
If you are a current CPR/First Aid Instructor with the American Red Cross, you need to register with the Savannah Chapter - Liberty Branch to keep your certification current. You can call 876-3975 or visit the local office in the Winn-Dixie Shopping Center between Goodwill and Pro-Feet for more information.

Finance Location Change
As part of the preparation for deployment in support of OIF 3, the 3d Finance Company will provide finance support to garrison units, MEDDAC and DEN-TAC from the finance section in the finance section located at the Soldiers Support Center. All 3rd ID units will continue to receive Finance Support from the current Customer Service in Bldg. 9118 or the finance team located within the brigades. For more information, call Capt. Langley or Master Sgt. Ramsey at 767-4680/5724.

Library
Childrens story hour Wednesday, 1 to 2 p.m. For more information, call 767-3753.

Hunter

Tax Center
The Tax Center will open Tuesday, 9 a.m. at the Legal Center to assist military ID card holders prepare their tax returns. The legal center is located in Bldg 1211, directly across from the Garrison Headquarters. The tax center will be open 9 a.m. through 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, through April 14. Call 303-3675/3697 to make an appointment, or for more information.

Hunter Lanes
Special packages available such as "Kidz Fun Pack, \$5.95 for two games of bowling, shoe rental, hot dog, chips and soda.

Ski Beech Mountain
Buses depart from Hunter Outdoor Recreation Bldg. 8454 on Jan. 22 at midnight and return Jan. 23 at 10 p.m. Costs include motel, ski lift and equipment rental. Adults \$180, children \$140 and children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 767-8609.

Jazzercise
Jazzercise programs are being offered at the Hunter Army Airfield Fitness Center Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m. Classes are free; sign up at any time. For more informa-

tion, call Lori O'Neill at 459-0161.

Universal Studios
Two day trip including transportation, two-day attraction ticket and lodging is scheduled for Feb. 20. Adult fare is \$150, children \$90 and anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Busses will depart at midnight from Bldg. 8454. For more information call 767-8609.

Chip and Putt Clinic
Free clinic, Friday, Jan. 14 from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, call 352-5622

Martin Luther King
Fort Stewart and Hunter will host this year's observance JTuesday, 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Woodruff Theater. Guest speaker will be Honorable Claude M. Bolton, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Army.

GMH Housing Available
Family housing is available for service members stationed at Hunter Army Airfield. There are units available for immediate occupancy, and several more expected within the month. Anyone interested in moving his or her family onto post should contact the GMH Military Housing office at 459-2133.

Winn /Tuttle

Newborn TRICARE Prime
Parents now have 60 days from the date of birth to enroll their newborn in TRICARE Prime. If the 60-day window is not met, the child will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Standard.
You must enroll your child in DEERS before you can enroll into TRICARE. For more information, 767-4909 or 352-5726. Call TRICARE at 1-800-444-5445.

Walk to Winn Program
This 12-week walking program is designed to increase activity, water intake and fruit and vegetable consumption. Registration begins today and spaces are limited so call 370-5071 to reserve your place.

Ready to Quit Class
Ready to Quit is a pre-requisite to the Tobacco Use Cessation program.
The next classes at Winn are 11 a.m. Jan. 26 and 11 a.m. Feb. 9. The next Tuttle class is 11 a.m. Jan. 26. For more information, call 370-5071.

TRICARE Phone Numbers
For general health care information, you can call the Humana Military Audio Library at 877-217-7946.

If you have questions about TRICARE, you can call TRICARE at 800-444-5445 or the Health Benefits Office at 370-6633 or 800-652-9221.

Volunteer Orientation
The next mandatory volunteer orientation at Winn will be held 8:30 to 11 a.m. Jan. 24 in Winn's Patriot Auditorium. Volunteers are welcome and needed in a variety of capacities at Winn. For more information, call 370-6903.

Strategies for Staying Healthy
This class offers strategies for staying healthy. Upon completion of the class, individuals will be given an over-the-counter pharmacy card for use at Winn and Tuttle.

The next class at Tuttle meets 10 to 11 a.m. Jan. 28. To register, call Community Health Nursing at 800-652-9221.

Baby Basic Training
Baby Basic Training offers first time fathers-to-be the chance to ask questions and practice taking care of their child through hands-on training. The class, facilitated by a man.
The next class is 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 2 at Social Work Services. To register, call 370-6779.

Marne TV

January 2005 Schedule

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every weekday. Tune in to the Marne Report six times a day for the latest from Stewart and Hunter.

5 a.m. Army Newswatch
5:30 a.m. MARNE REPORT
6:30 a.m. Air Force News
7 a.m. Navy News
7:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
8 a.m. MARNE REPORT

9 a.m. Air Force News
9:30 a.m. Navy News
11:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
Noon MARNE REPORT
1 p.m. Air Force News
4:30 p.m. Navy News

5 p.m. MARNE REPORT
6 p.m. Army Newswatch
6:30 p.m. Air Force News
7 p.m. Navy News
10 p.m. MARNE REPORT
11 p.m. Army Newswatch
Midnight MARNE REPORT

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 - **Location:** Statesboro
- **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
 - **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charges:** Forgery, larceny of private property
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old female, Avn. Bde.
 - **Charge:** Driving while license suspended
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 24-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charge:** Assault consummated by a battery
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 35-year-old male
 - **Charge:** Driving while license suspended
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 26-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
 - **Charge:** Reckless driving
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charges:** Shoplifting, disorderly conduct, public drunkenness
 - **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Rape
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
 - **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, operating unregistered vehicle, failure to obey order or regulation
 - **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charges:** Driving with suspended license, speeding
 - **Location:** Savannah



- **Subject:** Sergeant, 25-year-old female, separate unit
 - **Charge:** Driving under the influence
 - **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Staff Sgt., 33-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subjects:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Serious injury by vehicle
 - **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
 - **Location:** Fort Bragg, N.C.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 29-year-old male
 - **Charges:** Driving on a suspended license, speeding (74/55)
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 31-year-old female
 - **Charge:** Child neglect
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Staff Sgt., 37-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charge:** Theft by taking

- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old female, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Drunken driving, reckless driving (85/55), expired registration
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 26-year-old female, Avn. Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving on suspended or revoked license, speeding 53/40, no insurance, improper transfer of license plate
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old female, Avn. Bde.
- **Charges:** No insurance, driving motor vehicle with invalid registration
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Corporal, 23-year-old female, separate unit
- **Charges:** Speeding 80/66, driving on a suspended license, no proof of insurance
- **Location:** Pooler

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 84/55
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, unlawful speeding 110/55
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Family member, 25-year-old male
 - **Charges:** Obstruction or hindering law enforcement officers, illegal transfer of tags
 - **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old male, separate unit
 - **Charges:** Cruelty to children, simple battery
 - **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, Fires Bde.
 - **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Staff Sgt., 25-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, impeding the flow of traffic, weaving over the roadway
- **Location:** Walthourville

- **Subject:** Private, 24-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, improper lane change
- **Location:** Allenhurst

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Fleeing the scene of a traffic accident, failure to obey a traffic control device
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
- **Charges:** Housebreaking, larceny of private property, wrongful damaging of private property, possession of marijuana, false swearing
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 38-year-old male
- **Charges:** Following too closely
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charges:** Underage drinking, open container, wrongful possession, wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

Soldiers practice security for Inauguration

Spc. Justin Nieto

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Elements of the Joint Forces Headquarters-National Capital Region gathered at the National Mall in Washington, Jan. 11 to participate in a public demonstration of some of the biggest and best tools being used for security in the upcoming Inauguration.

Among those present for the event were Charles H. Ramsey, chief of the Metropolitan Police Department, Tom Ridge, secretary of Homeland Security and Maj. Gen. Galen B. Jackman, JFHQ-NCR commander.

Lining the street in front of the Capitol were various mobile command centers, booms raised, doors opened and personnel ready for a brief tour by the senior officials.

On the Mall itself were representatives of the various security and ceremonial agencies, including Soldiers from the Military District of Washington, members of the Metropolitan Police Department and Marines from the Chemical-Biological Incident Response Force stationed at Indian Head, Md.

"It's important to note that the people and the organizations represented here in person and with this equipment have been working together for years and years," Ridge said, during the press conference following the demonstration. "They work together all the time on all the events in the National Capital Region."

"These organizations represent what the Department of Homeland Security tries to do nationally," said Ridge: "Integrate capacities, abilities and all jurisdictions, because together, they are an extremely strong force."

Ridge said the reason for the display was to assure the public that all the levels of government are ready and prepared to deter and defend against any threat to the inaugural events.

"These resources will cover all aspects of the Inauguration, including the oath of office, the parade and any inaugural balls," said Ridge. As many as 6,000 police officers from different agencies will be present, augmented by Homeland Security personnel, Ridge added.

Among those joining the police and other security personnel in defense of the inaugural events are the troops of the JFHQ-NCR.

"We have a Joint Task Force within the National Capital Region, which is responsible for providing support to a lead federal agency," said Jackman, who commands the task force as well as the Military District of Washington and the Joint Task Force, Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, which coordinates the military support "on the ceremonial side ... like for the swearing-in ceremony and the parade."

Jackman went on to outline some of the security measures his commands are responsible for during this event.

"We coordinate all of the air defense for the air space around the National Capital Region, we coordinate the



Spc. Justin Nieto

Maj. Gen. Galen B. Jackman, Military District of Washington commander, speaks with the Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, about participating in the Inauguration during a security demonstration.

maritime security on the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, and the Washington Channel," Jackman said. "In support of the Secret Service," he add, "we're providing significant medical capability, robust explosive ordinance disposal and detection capabilities."

"Also, we provide a special technical rescue ability for collapsed structures and then, stationed a little bit further away from the Metropolitan area, we have forces that are stationed to respond," said Jackman.

Jackman also fielded questions about his organization's readiness and planning.

"We've worked just about every threat tendency that we could think of here," said Jackman. "We worked through all of the 'What ifs' -- how we would respond, how we would work with the agencies and this team together in what we call 'tabletop exercises'."

"We're very confident in our preparations for this event," Jackman said.

CENTCOM News

Troops detain six suspected in Baghdad governor slaying

BAGHDAD — An early morning raid on Jan. 11 netted Task Force Baghdad Soldiers six possible insurgents suspected of involvement in the assassination of the governor of Baghdad province.

A military spokesman said the raid culminated from tips from local sources.

“The information was pretty good,” said Maj. Web Wright, for the 10th Mountain Division’s 2nd Brigade public affairs officer. “We were able to act on this intelligence and detain these guys without firing a shot.”

Members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division’s 2nd Brigade, detained four suspects during the initial raid in the Hurriyah district of western Baghdad.

Forty minutes later, the unit reported the house cleared, and two other suspects were found and detained.

Wright said tips from local residents are becoming more commonplace in Baghdad.

“The citizens of Baghdad are really starting to turn over good information that we can put to use,” Wright said. “They are obviously fed up with the violence that the terrorists are causing.”

The suspects remain in custody for questioning.

Iraqi police colonel rescued by calvary unit

BAGHDAD — Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment Soldiers, rescued an Iraqi police colonel and his wife Jan. 8 after anti-Iraqi insurgents attacked the two on Baghdad’s notorious Haifa Street.

The colonel and his wife had returned to their recently-vacated apartment on Haifa Street that evening to fetch a few remaining items when two Iraqi police (IP) officers, serving as the colonel’s personal bodyguards, were attacked and killed outside the building.

According to the colonel, there were



Spc. Elizabeth Erste

On Dec.11, 2004, members of the Baqubah Iraqi Police Force arrive at a gas station in Buhriz, Iraq, to take over security, transport men detained for questioning, and impound the cars of suspected criminals after a raid of the premises for known anit-coalition insurgents performed by Soldiers of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division,

two vehicles carrying up to 14 insurgents. Six insurgents were seen entering the building after killing the two IP officers, but when the 1-9 Cavalry troops arrived at the scene 30 minutes later, the insurgents had already left the building.

Two suspicious individuals were detained outside the apartment building for further questioning. Both individuals were carrying the exact same ID card and one was in possession of a pistol.

After they cleared the apartment building and its two adjacent buildings, the Soldiers escorted the IP colonel and his wife in Bradley Fighting Vehicles to the nearest IP station.

Neither the colonel nor his wife was harmed in the incident

Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers attacked by firing from mosque

MOSUL — Soldiers of the Iraqi National Guard and Multi-National Forces came under attack while on a mission to deliver much needed supplies to a school in northern Iraq, Jan.11.

Soldiers of the 106th ING and the U.S.1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment came under attack during delivery of heaters and supplies to a school in Al Monsur. The troops were hit by a roadside bomb, and then were shot at by anti-Iraqi insurgents firing from the Saddam Mosque.

Three ING soldiers were killed and six

others were wounded in the attack. The driver of the truck that was hit by the roadside bomb was killed, and according to a civilian reporter at the scene was the father of 10. The wounded were taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Firing from the mosque is a violation of the laws of war. Iraqi authorities have stated that those insurgents using a religious center as their headquarters or as a place to attack Iraqi Security Forces or Multi-National Forces will not be safe.

Iraqi Security Forces continue to work together with leaders and citizens of Iraq to make it a safe, prosperous, and democratic nation.

Coalition forces recover cache

KABUL, Afghanistan — Coalition forces recovered two weapons caches and two drug caches on Sunday.

An Afghan citizen turned in a weapons cache to the Afghan National Police (ANP) near Lashkar Gah containing seven 200-pound bombs of an unknown nomenclature.

The ANP has secured the weapons cache and will stand guard until Coalition forces destroy it at a later date.

The second weapons cache was recovered by Coalition forces near Jalalabad. The cache contained two 75 mm rounds, nine 82 mm mortar tubes, three 14.5 mm machine guns, one ZSU-1, one BM-12 launcher, two dishkas, two 23 mm machine guns, one RPK, 2,500 14.5 mm rounds and 11 82 mm rounds.

Coalition forces have secured the weapons cache.

The ANP led Coalition forces to a drug cache near Jalalabad. The cache included 4.5 kilos of opium and 2.25 kilos of hashish.

The ANP have secured the drug cache and will destroy it at a later date.

The second drug cache was reported to Coalition forces near Qalat. Local Afghan police confiscated the cache containing 23 kilos of opium from a local national.

The local Afghan police have secured the cache and will destroy it at a later date.

Army port team handling incoming tsunami relief supplies

Special to The Frontline

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — An Army transportation team with staff from Korea, Hawaii and Japan is overseeing all operations at the Port of Laem Chabang, Thailand, as six ships from the Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron Three begin delivery of relief supplies.

The ships carry enough equipment and supplies to support 15,000 Marines for 30 days, according to the Military Sealift Command. In addition to expeditionary Marine Corps combat equipment; the ships carry food, fuel, medical supplies, construction and road building equipment, electrical power generating equipment, airfield matting and a Navy field hospital.

The 599th Deployment and Distribution Support Team is made up of civilians and service members from Headquarters, 599th, Hawaii; 595th (Provisional), Southwest Asia; and subordinate units from the 835th Transportation Battalion, Okinawa, Japan; 836th Transportation Battalion, Yokohama, Japan; and, 837th Transportation Battalion, Pusan, Korea, are joining together to form the 599th Deployment and Distribution Support Team.

The 599th DDST will serve as the U.S. Pacific Command's single port manager in current humanitarian aid efforts for the region.

According to Lt. Col. Drefus Lane, 599th DDST and 836th Trans. Battalion commander, the joining of forces is a true testament to the abilities of SDDC.

"Even though each of the members has a specific role they carry out at their home station, as they come together you see the true range of their skills and understanding for the SDDC mission," he said. "These guys are helping expand each others expertise, all while providing the best possible service to the customer."

"They've been able to form one team without missing a beat," Lane said.

As part of the delivery process, the 599th DDST will provide disaster-relief troops and their commanders with 100 percent in-transit visibility through the use of radio frequency identification tags.

Sgt. 1st Class Paul Guerrero, from the 835th Transportation, Battalion said, "As



Courtesy photo

A Marine from the 7th Communication Battalion, Okinawa, Japan, assists 599th Deployment and Distribution Support team members by guiding a forklift down the ramp of a High Speed Vessel at the Port of Chuk Samet, Thailand.

each piece of required equipment is discharged from the ship, it will be marked with an RFID tag. Then the tag will be scanned and imported into the Worldwide Port System, where commanders can track the equipment as it makes its way to the final destination."

The visibility of equipment offered by the RFID system gives commanders greater access to their assets. Additionally, the system provides accountability for the resources being utilized for the humanitarian operation.

On Jan. 9, members of the 599th DDST assisted with the arrival of the first group of military vehicles to join the tsunami relief efforts.

The Westpac Express High Speed

Vessel discharged more than 90 Marines and 75 pieces of equipment at the Port of Chuk Samet under the 599th management.

The Marines from the 7th Communications Battalion, Okinawa, Japan, brought the first Humvees, cargo trucks and fork lifts to support Operation Unified Assistance, said Fred Artis, 599th DDST Operations Officer from the 835th Transportation Battalion, Japan.

The equipment is on its way to areas requiring ground support, such as Sri Lanka and Samantra.

The Port of Chuk Samet is normally operated by members of the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command during exercises and operations in

Thailand, said Artis. "So, our presence here is vital, because we have vast knowledge and understanding for the port's capabilities."

With extensive knowledge of the port, members of the 599th DDST created checkpoints for the Marines and their cargo to ensure the cargo was tracked correctly.

"The main function for us today was to ensure an accurate count of the discharged equipment and cargo," said Sgt. 1st Class Frank Viray, Headquarters, 599th Transportation Group. "The information will then be entered into the Worldwide Port System, where commanders will be able to have 100 percent in-transit visibility of these resources."

Using the tools of investigation

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

1st Bde.

A part of being in the Army means dealing with chaos. When dealing with chaos it is necessary to document the facts of the event. The Army uses a fact finding tool called Army Regulation 15-6 to gather information and properly document what happened in a specific event.

“Army Regulation 15-6 refers to the regulation governing the investigation process,” said Maj. Dean Lynch, command judge advocate for 1st Brigade. “It is typically an informal investigation, but it can be formal. Ninety-nine percent of the time, the informal provisions of the regulation is used, where you just appoint an investigating officer to look into and docu-

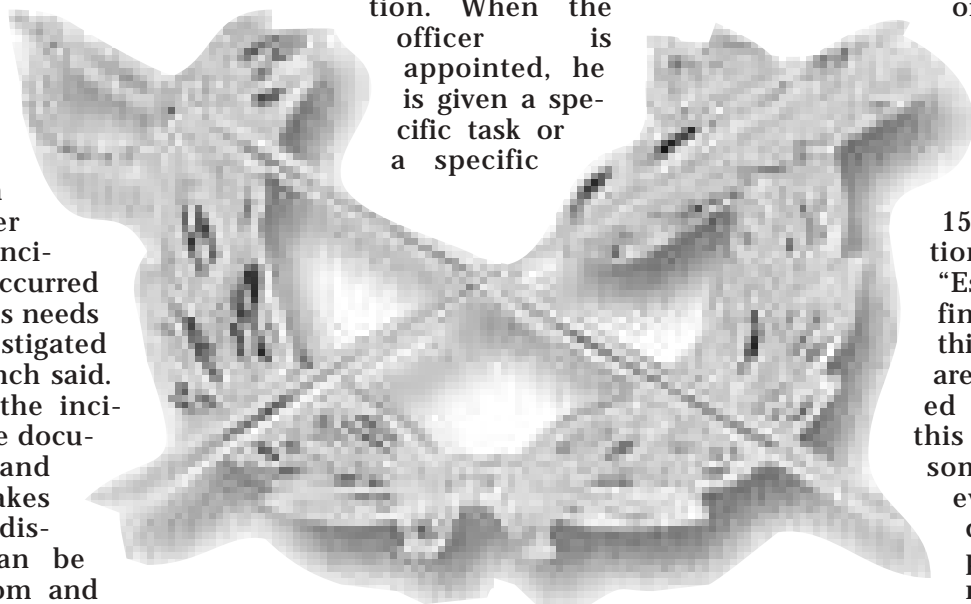
ment any matter that a commander

feels should be investigated.”

AR 15-6 is a tool used by a commander when an incident has occurred that he feels needs to be investigated further, Lynch said. That way the incident can be documented and any mistakes that are discovered can be learned from and avoided in the future.

When a commander appoints an officer to investigate an incident, the officer goes to JAG to

be briefed on the legal way to conduct the investigation. When the officer is appointed, he is given a specific task or a specific



matter to look into, he is also given parameters that he has to comply with, Lynch said.

The investigation can be damaged if an officer does not follow these parameters, Lynch said.

“You can have fatal errors in an AR 15-6 investigation,” Lynch said. “Especially if the findings of those things we call fact are not documented properly. What this means is if something in the evidence is not documented properly, a statement, a photograph or an exhibit can damage the outcome of the investigation.”

While it may seem that there

is quite a bit more chaos that occurs during a deployment, Lynch believed that the same amount of investigations probably take place in garrison as in theater.

“I don’t believe there will be more of these kinds of investigations in theater than here,” Lynch said. “They may be a different type of investigation, but no more or less, I don’t think.”

Soldiers who don’t feel they have done anything wrong should not have anything to fear from an AR 15-6 investigation.

“If all the correct procedures are followed, it will come out in the investigation,” Lynch said. “A Soldier can even be exonerated from any wrong doing by the investigation process. Remember though, if the Soldier is guilty of something that will also come out in the investigation”.



Spc. Jonathan Montgomery

An Explosive Ordnance Disposal robotic "Talon" is gainfully employed Jan. 6 in Baghdad, Iraq.

EOD robots performing wonders in Iraq

Spc. Jonathan Montgomery

Army News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Whenever an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician heads downrange, one thing is certain: the robot goes first.

"The cost of losing a robot is not nearly as close as losing a trained EOD person," said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Carroll, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 184th Ordnance Battalion, an EOD Robotics team from Fort Gillem, Ga., deployed to Baghdad. "Time on target is our biggest danger, and these robots eliminate us from having to go downrange if we don't have to."

Since their EOD inception, robotic systems have saved numerous lives by helping to wipe away the threat of improvised explosive devices and vehicle-borne IEDs encountered daily throughout the Iraqi theater of operations.

Not surprisingly, 95 percent of all EOD robots are used for reconnaissance missions and delivering explosives to the hazard for detonation, said Carroll.

"We wouldn't have EOD guys if we didn't have robots to take the hit," he explained about the constant number of IED casualties along main supply routes and in close-quarter urban areas. "These robots are a human cost-saving mechanism."

In addition to taking an IED blast, EOD robots also get shot at by small arms fire, added Carroll.

These "man-portable" robots, initially employed by

infantry units for advance scouting purposes, dually serve as multi-versatile, lightweight machines supplementing EOD teams on the roads of Iraq.

"The IED threat is so critical," said Cpt. Jason Souza, officer in charge of the 184th EOD Robotics team. He added that the EOD missions in both Iraq and Afghanistan have exceeded the demand for robots.

The robots, able to be thrown in the back of a chopper or tactical vehicle with ease, each consist of thousands of interlocking parts. They are primarily designed as a track vehicle with a retractable arm claw and camera, and are also capable of being armed with a grenade launcher or other infantry arsenals.

"You put this [robot] on the ground, and people know who you are," said Carroll about EOD. "[Iraqi] kids go 'Boom! Boom!' when they see us because they know an explosion is going to happen. People start to scatter."

Common city obstacles such as getting over a curb or wading through a foot of sewer water are often overcome with the remote control expertise of a skilled EOD technician, but sometimes a bomb blast can get the best of the robot's size, strength and dexterity.

"One lady came back (to the robot repair depot) with only two tracks in her hands," said Marine Master Sgt. Thomas Bogosh, senior noncommissioned officer of the Joint Robotic System Repair Station in Iraq. "They weren't even whole tracks, only parts of them."

"A year's worth of work back home is equal to one day in Iraq for these robots," he said.

Army safely destroys one third of nation's chemical agent

Special to The Frontline

Army News Service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency announced that by the end of the year it had safely destroyed one third of the nation's stored chemical agent.

Workers at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., have destroyed more than 70 percent of the mustard agent stockpile that has been stored for more than 60 years at the installation. The facility remains on track to complete destruction of this stockpile this winter, said Michael A. Parker, CMA director.

"The dedicated workers at all of our disposal facilities are making great strides to eliminate these weapons and make our nation safer in the process," Parker said. "We remain focused on our mission and will use our expertise, experience and resolve to continue this work until the last of this materiel is safely destroyed."

While meeting the destruction provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty signed by the United States in 1997, CMA officials said the mission of the agency is to protect and safely store the United States' aging chemical weapons, while employing technologies to safely and effectively destroy the nation's chemical stockpile as well as recover, treat and ultimately eliminate

other chemical warfare materiel.

Thus far, the Army has destroyed more than 42 percent of the nation's chemical weapons munitions, and 10,503 tons of chemical agent, representing one third of the total stockpile.

That's more than 1.4 million munitions such as rockets, land mines, projectiles and artillery shells, said Jeff Lindblad, CMA public affairs officer. The chemical agent stockpile includes a combination of GB or Sarin and VX, both nerve agents, and mustard agent, he added.

All of the chemical weapons on Johnston Island in the Pacific were the first to be eliminated by the Army. Along with Aberdeen, chemical weapons are currently being destroyed in Tooele, Utah, Anniston, Ala., and Umatilla, Ore.

Operations to destroy chemical weapons are anticipated to begin within the next year in Pine Bluff, Ark., and Newport, Ind.

The U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Program, another arm of CMA, has also made substantial progress in destroying chemical materiel considered separate from the chemical stockpile. This includes former production facilities and recovered chemical warfare materiel, officials said.

NSCMP reached a key milestone in 2003 by destroying more than 80 percent of the nation's original chemical weapons production capabilities 16 months ahead of schedule, officials said.

In November, NSCMP completed a



Courtesy photo

Workers at Desert Chemical Depot in Tooele, Utah, prepare a pallet of M55 VX Nerve Agent-filled Rockets for transport from DCD's chemical agent storage area to the nearby Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility for destruction.

major phase in its ongoing demolition of a former production facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal, in White Hall, Ark., one of the two still remaining (the other is at Newport Chemical Depot, in Vermillion, Ind.). Both will be demolished by the April 2007 deadline established under the CWC.

RCI

Questions and Answers

As with any new Army initiative, many questions are raised. The Army Residential Community Initiative office has responded to common areas of concern to dispel misconceptions about the program.

Will I get a brand new house as soon as the RCI is initiated on my post?

The reality is that the average initial development plan takes about 10 years. In that time, a combination of newly built and renovated houses are developed. So it is possible for a Soldier to live at an RCI post for a year or two and not get to live in a newly built or fully renovated house.

Will basic allowance for housing fund a similar level of services at all installations?

Due to the significant variation in the BAH across the RCI projects, and differences in what partners and the installation desire, not all installations will provide the same services at the same level. For example, not all projects will provide the same levels of quarters cleaning during occupant moves. Each installation makes choices as to how much money is allotted to pay for services versus amenities such as swimming pools and construction of new houses. These choices are made at the installation level because the local conditions such as weather and what the off-post community offers impact the choices of where to spend the limited funds.

Are the developers making a financial killing off these projects?

All monies that are collected are placed into a lock box account where things such as development costs, construction costs, property management costs, maintenance costs and a reinvestment account are held. The Army is part of a limited liability corporation with the private developer and together they participate in the projects and make joint decisions on how and where the money is spent.

Can I be evicted from post housing and will the command help me?

The command can step in and stop it. However, eviction is a private matter between the developer partner and the Soldier. If Soldiers fail to meet their financial obligations, the developer can follow the same procedures through local courts that off-post developers use. The government is not involved in the process.